

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An electronic business card device comprising:
 - a memory constructed and adapted to store at least one electronic business card consisting of at least an image of a business card along with associated card information derivable from and associated with the business card;
 - a sending mechanism constructed and adapted to send a stored electronic business card to other devices;
 - a receiving mechanism constructed and adapted to receive an electronic business card and associated card information from another device; and
 - a storing mechanism constructed and adapted to selectively store the received electronic business card in the memory, the storing being based at least in part on at least some of the received associated card information.
2. A device as in claim 2 wherein the image and associated card information are in v-card format.
3. A device as in claim 1 wherein the image of the business card includes a representation of a name and wherein the associated card information includes the name, and wherein the storing mechanism stores the card based on the name.

4. A device as in claim 1 wherein the image of the business card includes a representation of a telephone number and wherein the associated information includes the telephone number, and wherein the storing mechanism stores the card based on the telephone number.
5. A device as in claim 1 further comprising:
a tracking mechanism constructed and adapted to track other devices to which this device sends an electronic business card.
6. A device as in claim 5 further comprising:
a mechanism constructed and adapted to automatically update cards sent to other devices when a previously sent card is changed.
7. A device as in claim 1 wherein the sending mechanism uses at least one of: wireless transmission, and physical transmission.
8. A device as in claim 1 wherein the receiving mechanism uses at least one of: wireless transmission, and physical transmission.
9. A device as in claim 1 wherein the memory is removable from the device.
10. A device as in claim 1 further comprising:
a controller adapted and constructed to control the sending and receiving of electronic business cards via the sending mechanism and the receiving mechanism respectively.

11. In a system using electronic business card devices, a method comprising, by a first electronic business card device:

storing an electronic business card consisting of at least an image of a business card along with associated card information derivable from and associated with the business card;

communicating with a second electronic business card device to determine whether a current version of the stored electronic business card has been sent to the second electronic business card device; and, based on said determining,

sending at least the image of the stored business card and the associated card information derivable from and associated with the business card to the second electronic business card device when the current version of the stored electronic business card has not been sent to the second electronic business card device.

12. A method as in claim 11 further comprising:

tracking other electronic business card devices to which a stored electronic business card has been sent.

13. A method as in claim 11 wherein the image and associated card information are in v-card format.

14. A program product for causing a first electronic device to perform a method of:

- storing a first electronic business card consisting of at least an image of a first business card along with associated card information derivable from and associated with the first business card;

- sending at least the image of the first business card and the associated card information derivable from and associated with the first business card to a second electronic device;

- receiving a second electronic business card consisting of at least an image of a second business card along with associated card information derivable from and associated with the second business card; and

- storing the received second electronic business card, wherein stored electronic business cards are indexed by the associated card information derivable from and associated therewith.

15. A program product as in claim 14

- wherein the second electronic business card is received from the second electronic device, and

- wherein the sending and the receiving are performed during an exchange of electronic business cards between the first electronic device and the second electronic device.

16. A program product as in claim 14 further comprising:

- downloading the first electronic business card from a server.

17. A program product as in claim 14 wherein associated card information comprises at least one of a name a phone number, and an email address.

18. A program product as in claim 17 wherein stored electronic business cards are indexed by more than one of the name, the phone number and the email address of each stored electronic business card.

19. A program product as in claim 14 further comprising:
communicating with the second electronic device to determine whether a current version of the first electronic business card has been sent to the second electronic device,

wherein the sending step is only performed if the current version of the first electronic business card has not been sent to the second electronic device.

20. A program product as in claim 14 further comprising:
communicating with the second electronic device to determine whether a current version of the second electronic business card has been received from the second electronic device,

wherein the receiving step is only performed if the current version of the second electronic business card has not been received from the second electronic device.